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Fire Within: a Civil War Narrative From Wisconsin

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Musser's service with the 29th Iowa Infantry represents an aspect of the Civil War that receives too little attention, that of the Trans-Mississippi. The war is all too often seen as happening in the eastern theater, or with General William Sherman in the West, with the valuable contributions of soldiers in other theaters being ignored. *Soldier Boy* does much to rectify this. The hardships, deprivations, danger, and loneliness of the Civil War soldier existed as much in the Trans-Mississippi as anywhere else, and Musser's letters are an invaluable source to document such experiences.

Musser is a good example of an Iowa volunteer—proud of his cause, loyal to his comrades, and hostile to those he believes have not supported the cause or the soldiers. He also carries with him the negative aspects of many Union soldiers who fought against slavery but found it difficult to see African Americans as equals: "i never did like the darky, and you may believe i do not now" (25). In spite of his prejudice, Musser was forced to acknowledge that the war was the African Americans' war, too. On the then controversial subject of arming African Americans, Musser wrote, "The armying of Negroes for Soldiers is now considered by all or a large majority of the boys as a necessity, and they go in Strong for it. for my part i say arm every nigger of them and let them fight, for they need no force . . . to make them fight. I know they will fight and like demons, too. they know their fate if taken as prisoners" (58).

Soldier Boy is a first-rate addition to both the Iowa bibliography of the Civil War and the nation's. It is exactly the kind of firsthand account that scholars such as Larry M. Logue will be using for their analytical studies for years to come.

Fire Within: A Civil War Narrative from Wisconsin, by Kerry A. Trask. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1995. xii, 279 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, notes, index. \$30.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOGT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Civil War scholarship has gradually shifted from a major emphasis on generals and strategy to a merging of military and social history. The home front has become as important as the campaign tent. It is a natural combination, for the story of the nation's greatest tragedy took place in local communities as well as on the battlefield. Each soldier who marched to war left family, friends, and a home behind.

Kerry A. Trask has bridged the gap between military and social history in this fine account of the soldiers and civilians of the small town of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Trask knew very little of either the

war or the history of his adopted home town when he, as a civic-minded citizen, prepared a series of lectures on the first soldier from the town to be killed in the war. He might have stopped with the lectures, but he found that his community, like so many others, had a deep Civil War heritage and that people were eager to share information with him. "Material—really rich, untapped primary stuff—just kept coming my way, much of it brought to my attention by people I did not know" (x). Local material led him to military sources, and the more he learned of the war and how it affected the people of his town, the more he became determined to write their story.

Trask uses the traditional sources of local history. As is usual with such sources, he has uncovered many gems. The narrative is built around the letters of one soldier, James Anderson, but is enhanced by a variety of other primary sources. Two of the strongest are the journal entries of a young woman, Rosa Kellner, and the writings of the town's leading antiwar Democrats. Such sources are rare, and Trask makes excellent use of them.

The author does more than give readers a stirring account of the war: his larger purpose is to discover the war's effect on people. His prologue looks to the literary history of war, from Walt Whitman to Phil Caputo, to find the context for the story of the boys who "were taken into the armies, trained, and transformed into cogs in what Hamlin Garland called 'a vast machine for killing men'" (2).

This is a Wisconsin story, and the military side is of the Army of the Potomac, which had few soldiers from Iowa, but the experiences of Iowa soldiers and communities were similar. The people of both states were well informed on the issues, participated in the political debates of the age, and, as the war progressed, saw their young men killed and mangled in unprecedented numbers.

Nineteenth-Century Mormon Architecture and City Planning, by C. Mark Hamilton. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. xvii, 203 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$65.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY LOREN N. HORTON, IOWA CITY, IOWA

There were many new developments in both architecture and town planning in the nineteenth-century United States. Some of these developments rapidly passed into obscurity, but others lasted until the present. The contributions of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) are among those of lasting significance. Because of the administrative nature of the church, there was a uniformity of practice wherever the Mormons settled. This is an ongoing process, but

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